

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph **0001** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Appl. No. 10/621,028, filed July 16, 2003, entitled “Method and Apparatus for Providing a Terminal Independent Interface Between a Terrestrial Optical Terminal and an Undersea Optical Transmission Path.”

Please replace paragraph **0002** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0002] This application is related to U.S. Patent Appl. No. 10/621,115, filed July 16, 2003, entitled “Method and Apparatus for Performing System Monitoring in a Terminal Independent Interface Located Between a Terrestrial Optical Terminal and an Undersea Optical Transmission Path.”

Please replace paragraph **0023** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0023] Presumably, the transponders in the terminal equipment 110 have the ability to locate and diagnose their own faults. The wet plant 120 and optical interface devices 150 generally do not have access to the data payload in the optical signals and thus cannot use such data to monitor signal quality such as by examining FEC or other telemetry information. Thus, the wet plant 120 and the optical interface devices 150 must be able to detect service-affecting faults within themselves and they must also be able to monitor the quality of the optical signals as they enter and exit these elements (i.e., as they traverse interfaces 164 and 174). The health and status of the wet plant 120 can be monitored by a performance monitor such as a COTDR that is located in the optical interface device 150. One example of an optical interface device incorporating such a performance monitor is disclosed in co-pending U.S. Patent Appl. Serial No. 10/621,115, filed July 16, 2003 [~~Docket No. 19~~]. Accordingly, there remains a need to monitor the signal quality as it crosses interface 164 and then again as it crosses interface 174.